Linking of rivers in Andhra Pradesh

3324. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal pending with the Centre to link rivers of Andhra Pradesh to help the farming community who are committing suicides;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) and Central Water Commission (CWC) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging inter-basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas which comprises of two components namely Himalayan Rivers Development component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the MOWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals NPP and to give concrete shape to it. Based on various studies conducted, NEDA has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular & 14 Himalayan rivers development component) for preparing Feasibility Reports (FRs).

Mahanadi-Vaigai link system consisting of 9 links under Peninsular Rivers Development Component of National Perspective Plan envisages irrigation, hydropower, domestic and industrial water supply benefits to different areas in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Out of the 9 links, 8 links will pass through the State of Andhra Pradesh. While 5 links lie entirely in the State, 3 links run partly through its territory. Feasibility Reports of all the nine links of the systems have been completed by NWDA.

Non-supply of Water to Bihar by Uttar Pradesh

†3325. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Uttar Pradesh has discontinued the supply of water to Bihar as a result of which an unprecedemted crisis of water has arisen in the State;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether any explanation has been sought from State Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard; and

(c) the steps to be taken by Government to sort out this problem?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ) (a) As per the information available with the Union Ministry of Water Resources, Government of Uttar Pradesh has not discontinued the supply of water to the Bihar State.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Construction of multi-purpose Polavaram Project on the River of Godavari

3326. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh is constructing Multi-purpose Polavaram Project on the river Godavari which will submerge large part of Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the CWC has approved the above project; and

(c) whether Central Government has taken the Government of Orissa in confidence for above project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) The Government of Andhra Pradesh proposed to construct Indira Sagar (Polavaram) project on the river Godavari in accordance with the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal (GWDT) Award 1980. As per the Project Report prepared by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the project is likely to submerge about 1200 hectare in Orissa.

(b) the Project Report received in Central Water Commission during October to December, 2005 is under techno-economic appraisal.

(c) and (d) The inter-State agreements dated 15.12.1978 and 2.4.1980 among the basin States regarding construction of Polavaram Project, which form part of the GWDT Award, stipulate that the maximum submergence in the territory of Orissa at Motu/Konta does not exceed 150 feet due to all effects including backwater effect! The Central